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OCT 27 2006

In re Patent Application of
MARINET ET AL.

Serial No. 09/995,258

Filed: NOVEMBER 27, 2001

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the careful and thorough examination of the present application and for allowing Claims 33-41. Applicants also thank the Examiner for extending all courtesies during the telephonic interviews held October 23, 2006 and October 26, 2006. During the interview, the Examiner maintained his position that the claim recitation of a "folded MOS transistor" in independent Claims 17, 25 and 42 would benefit from further definition.

Independent Claims 17, 25, and 42 have been amended as helpfully suggested by the Examiner to recite structure for the folded MOS transistor. Dependent Claims 18-19, 26-27, and 43-44 have been amended for consistency. Applicants submit that no new matter has been introduced, and that no new issues are raised based on the amendments and arguments presented below.

I. The Claimed Invention

Amended independent Claim 17, for example, is directed to a random signal generator that comprises an electronic noise source comprising a folded MOS transistor having a drain-source current with a random component. The folded MOS transistor comprises a drain and a source with a folded channel defined therebetween. The folded channel is described at page 9, lines 18-34 of the specification. The folded channel would encompass the S-shaped or zigzag-shaped embodiments in certain dependent claims. The random signal generator further comprises a circuit for generating a digital signal based upon the random component. Independent Claims 25

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and 42 have been similarly amended per the Examiner's helpful suggestion.

II. The Claims Are Patentable

The Examiner rejected independent Claims 17, 25, and 42 over the Schulz patent. The Schulz patent discloses a random number generator circuit based upon low frequency sampling of the result and the variability in the frequency of oscillation of a free-running ring oscillator. (Col. 2, lines 6-10). Independent Claims 17, 25, and 42 recite an electronic noise source including a folded MOS transistor comprising a drain and a source with a folded channel defined therebetween. The Schulz patent fails to disclose such.

Accordingly, independent Claims 17, 25, and 42 are patentable over the prior art. Their respective dependent claims, which recite yet further distinguishing features, are also patentable over the prior art and require no further discussion herein.

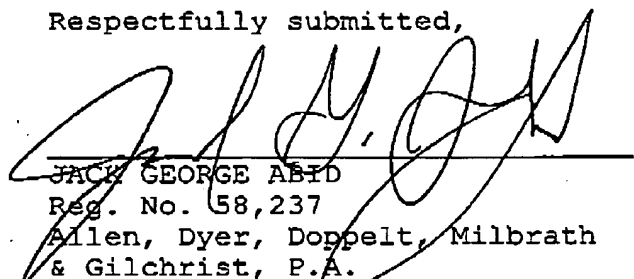
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CONCLUSIONS

In view of the amendments to the claims and the arguments presented above, it is submitted that all of the claims are patentable. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested in due course. Should any minor informalities need to be addressed, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing correspondence has been forwarded via facsimile number 571-273-8300 to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 this 27th day of October, 2006.

